

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
9 AT SEATTLE

10 MICHELLE LYNN BURNELL,

11 Plaintiff,

12 v.

13 LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD &  
14 SMITH LLP, et al.,

15 Defendants.

CASE NO. C22-0265JLR

ORDER

16 Before the court is *pro se* Plaintiff Michelle Lynn Burnell’s motion to appoint  
17 counsel. (Mot. (Dkt. # 9); Am. Mot. (Dkt. # 7).) Ms. Burnell, who is proceeding *in*  
18 *forma pauperis* (“IFP”), filed this action against Defendants Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard &  
19 Smith LLP, Heather M. Jensen, and Anne Marie Hoovler (collectively, “Defendants”) on  
20 March 7, 2022. (IFP Mot. (Dkt. # 1); Order Granting IFP Status (Dkt. # 3); Compl. (Dkt.  
21 # 4).) She brings claims for employment discrimination and retaliation under Title VII of  
22 the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e, *et. seq.*; the Americans with Disabilities

1 Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12101, *et seq.*; and the Washington Law Against Discrimination, RCW  
2 49.60, *et seq.* (See Compl. at 2-5.<sup>1</sup>)

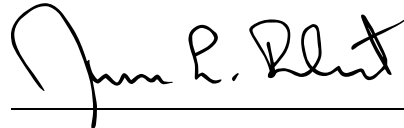
3 This District has implemented a plan for court-appointed representation of civil  
4 rights litigants. The plan currently in effect requires the court to assess a plaintiff's case  
5 before forwarding it to a pro bono screening committee for further review and a possible  
6 appointment of pro bono counsel. See General Order No. 16-20, Section 3(c) (Dec. 8,  
7 2020). The court assesses the plaintiff's case to determine that it is not frivolous and that  
8 the plaintiff is financially eligible. *Id.* Ms. Burnell's submissions satisfy the court that  
9 there is an adequate basis to refer her case to the Screening Committee.

10 Under Section 3(c) of the District's pro bono plan, the court DIRECTS the Clerk  
11 of the Court to forward Ms. Burnell's complaint (Dkt. # 4), the motion to appoint counsel  
12 (Dkt. # 9), the amended motion to appoint counsel (Dkt. # 7), and the pleadings and  
13 documents filed to date to the Screening Committee. See General Order No. 16-20,  
14 Section 3(c). The court ORDERS the Screening Committee to review the case and make  
15 a recommendation to the court in accordance with the pro bono plan and the rules for the  
16 pro bono panel on or before April 18, 2022. See *id.*, Section 3(d), (f). The Clerk shall  
17 RENOTE Ms. Burnell's motion to appoint counsel (Dkt. # 9) for April 18, 2022, pending  
18 the Screening Committee's recommendation as to whether the court should appoint  
19 counsel. See *id.*

20 //

21 \_\_\_\_\_  
22 <sup>1</sup> Ms. Burnell also suggests that she has a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. (See Compl. at  
2 (referencing Section 1983).)

1 Dated this 21st day of March, 2022.

2  
3 

4 JAMES L. ROBART  
5 United States District Judge  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22